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**PRISON GUARD ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH ESCAPEE IN CONNECTION WITH
ESCAPE LEADING TO THE MURDER OF ESCAPEE'S EX-GIRLFRIEND**

(WACO, TEXAS) This morning, U.S. Marshals Service deputies arrested 24-year-old **BENNY DONNELL GARRETT**, a former corrections officer at the McLennan County Detention Center in Waco on charges that he facilitated an inmate's escape that ultimately resulted in the murder of the escapee's ex-girlfriend.

Garrett, a.k.a. "Super," of Marlin, Texas, and 27-year-old **SHERMAN LAMONT FIELDS** of Waco, were named in a sealed indictment returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Waco. The indictment was unsealed today.

The indictment alleges that between October and December 2001, the defendants were involved in a conspiracy where **Garrett** would provide contraband and prohibited objects to prison inmates in exchange for money. This included alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and a cell phone. In addition, the indictment alleges that **Garrett**, in exchange for the promise of money, helped **Fields** escape the detention facility by providing him with a key to a fire escape door. **Fields**—in custody since September 25, 2001, awaiting trial on federal firearms charges—escaped from the McLennan County Detention Center on November 6, 2001. After escaping from detention, **Fields** allegedly shot and killed his ex-girlfriend near Downsville, Texas. The indictment also alleges that on November 15, 2001, **Fields**, using a firearm, stole a 1999 Chevy Lumina. The indictment also alleges that **Fields**, a convicted felon, possessed a .22 Ruger on November 24, 2001. On July 30, 1992, **Fields** was convicted of Attempted Murder by Firearm in the 54th District Court, McLennan County, Texas, and sentenced to eight years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

In all, **Garrett** is charged with: one count of Conspiracy to provide contraband and prohibited objects to prison inmates; one count of smuggling contraband into the detention facility; one count of aiding and abetting an inmate's escape; one count of aiding and abetting **Fields'** possession of a firearm which resulted in the murder of the escapee's ex-girlfriend; and, one count of marijuana distribution. **Fields** is charged with: one count of Conspiracy to provide contraband and prohibited objects to prison inmates; one count of escape from detention; one count of use and carrying a firearm that resulted in the death of **Fields'** ex-girlfriend; one count of carjacking; one count of use and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence; and, one count of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

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Fields was arrested in Waco without incident by the Waco Police Department after being a fugitive for approximately three weeks. The government is moving to detain both defendants prior to trial. It is anticipated that Judge Manske will schedule a detention hearing for both defendants.

If convicted of all charges in the indictment, **Fields** and **Garrett** could face life in federal prison or the death penalty.

This case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, McLennan County Sheriff's Office, Falls County Sheriff's Office and the Marlin Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Frazier and Greg Gloff are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government. It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt.

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